(c) Government has initiated various steps to improve power situation in the country. These, interalla, include amendments in Electricity laws; restructuring of State Electricity Boards; higher budgetary allocations for central sector projects; renovation and modernisation of power stations; interest subsidy for accelerated completion of State sector ongoing schemes, Renovation and Modernisation and system improvements; formulating a policy for mega projects; promotion of regional integrated operation and maximising inter-state/regional power transfer, augmentation of transmission and transformation capacity of the power system.

Cumulative Losses of SEB's

2379. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the cumulative losses of State Electricity Boards as at the end of March 1990, March 1995 and March 1998;

(b) the factors responsible for losses; and

(c) how does Government propose to solve the problem?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) The cumulative losses of all the SEBs taking into account subsidy as booked in the accounts were Rs. 3351.23 crores & Rs. 496.22 crores as on 31.3.1990 and 31.3.1995 respectively. The cumulative losses/surplus of the SEBs as on 31.3.1998 are not available due to non-finalisation of the Annual Accounts of the SEBs for the year 1997-98.

(b) The main reasons of the losses of the SEBs inter-alia, include, the widening gap between the average cost of supply and realisation, delay as well as inadequate revision of tariff, non-realisation of the dues by SEBs for sale of power, low level of capacity utilisation of existing plants and high transmission & distribution losses.

(c) The establishment of the Regulatory Commissions, as provided in the Act recently passed by the Parliament, would help in rationalising tariff and also provide for transparency in the provision of subsidies, wherever required. The State Governments can exercise the option of providing subsidies, over and above, those recommended by the Regulatory Commissions, on condition that the State Governments compensate the SEBs by providing adequate budgetary support. The Commissions are also required to ensure that the utilities and licensees work in a competitive manner by improving their efficiency. Rational tariff fixation and efficient operations are bound to improve the financial health of the SEBs as well as their capacity to invest.

Appointment of Regular CMD in NHPC

2380. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether NHPC is not having a regular Chief Executive since October, 1997;

(b) whether any action has been taken to appoint regular Chairman and Managing Director in the wake of retirement of the present Chief Executive;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) if so, the reasons for which the said post could not be filled up, so far?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Based on the vigilance clearance accorded by CVC the appointment of Shri Yogendra Prasad as a CMD on a regular basis is being processed for Government approval.

Proposals for New Power Projects from Tripura and Madhya Pradesh

2381. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state: